Community Connections General Application Form			
General Application Form			
Applicant Organization Name: Girl Scouts of Central Texas			
Alias/DBA: GSCTX			
Program Name for Google Fiber Connection:			
Girls Go Google			
Organization Mission and Purpose: Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.			
Organization Website: www.gsctx.org			
Contact Name: Kristi Swasko			
City: Austin	State: TX		Zip: 78753
Phone: (512)490-2323	Email: Grants@gsctx.org		
Location(s) applying for site selection (including physical address of location) and how long your organization plans on being at each location:			
Type of Organization: Non-Profit			
Number of years in operation: 101 years for Girl Scouts and 87 years for Girl Scouts of Central Texas.		Number of employees at location: 50 employees at the Austin Program Center	

Community Connections Criteria Form

(Please complete this portion of application for each location in an electronic document and please explain each response)

Criteria Form

Please include location if applying for more than one location:

Organization

1. What is your agency's vision? (response required for all agencies)

Girl Scouts of Central Texas' vision is to deliver programs that focus on Girl Scouts' core strength of leadership development, while also offering provable outcomes that benefit girls, families, and communities.

2. What is your agency's mission and purpose? (response required for all agencies)

Girl Scouts mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Texas focuses on delivering fun, high-quality, relevant, innovative, and meaningful leadership experiences to develop girls who want to change the world.

3. Please list your organization's affiliations, community partnerships, certifications, and/or accreditations. (response required for all agencies)

Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) partners directly with schools and community youth organizations whenever possible. Collaborative efforts are usually more effective, and GSTCX is careful to not duplicate services provided by other nonprofit organizations. GSCTX provides paid staff to lead programs at schools, community centers, and day camps that provide educational opportunities that would be otherwise unavailable to a wide range of girls from diverse backgrounds and dissimilar familial situations. GSCTX also provides training, materials, and ongoing support to community collaborators who have the staff and/or volunteer resources to host traditional and non-traditional Girl Scouts programs. In the greater Austin area, GSCTX partners with Austin Independent School District (AISD), Manor ISD, Texas School for the Deaf, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA), Skillpoint Alliance, TAME, the University of Texas, FIRST Robotics, Keep Austin Beautiful, Austin Children's Museum (now known as Thinkery), Capital Area Master Naturalists, Austin Wildlife Rescue, Austin Community College (ACC), SafePlace, Settlement Home, Foundation Communities, Beehive, ExtendacCare, Communities in Schools (CIS), ASPIRE, Boys and Girls Club, and other community-based organizations in the greater Austin area.

4. What is the total number of unduplicated clients served by your organization at this location last fiscal year? (response required for non-profit agencies only)

Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) serves 19,000 girls and 13,000 adult volunteers across forty-six Central Texas counties each year. Though the council supports Program Centers in Brownwood, Bryan, Killeen, San Angelo, Stephenville, Temple, and Waco, the majority of GSCTX's membership is located in the greater Austin area. Approximately 11,000 girls and 7,500 adult volunteers are served annually from GSCTX's headquarters in North Austin.

5. Briefly provide an overview of your organization and the services it offers. (response required for all agencies)

From founding libraries in America's heartland to establishing free medical clinics in India, Girl Scouts continues to impact communities around the globe. Currently, 3.2 million girls and community members participate in Girl Scouts programming, and the excitement continues to grow as Girl Scouts looks forward to the next 100 years of building girls of courage, confidence, and character. Girl Scouts

of Central Texas (GSCTX) is headquartered in Austin and serves more than 19,000 girls (Grades K-12) and 13,000 adult volunteers across forty-six Central Texas counties. Through outcomes-based leadership opportunities, GSCTX allows girls to discover their own potential, connect with their peers, and take action to improve the communities in which they live. Through a variety of community service projects, cultural exchanges, and skill building activities, girls learn to cultivate courage, strength, and their own potential to impact the world around them.

Part of what makes Girl Scouts activities and programs so unique is their ability to be sustained over multiple years, involve families, and encourage experiential and cooperative learning in a single-gender environment. This emphasis on community service and personal leadership has served as the Girl Scouts' foundation for over 100 years, and it will continue to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

6. Describe the community issues your organization is attempting to address. Include a description of the population most at risk of experiencing the issues described. (response required for non-profit agencies only)

Though the Girl Scouts organization is now over 100 years old, its programs continue to adapt to the changing needs of girls in our area. One of the most exciting ways that Girl Scouts has adapted its programs is the inclusion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education, events, and activities. Although women have made great strides in many formerly male-dominated professions, engineering remains one of the occupations where female employees are severely underrepresented. The Congressional Joint Economic Committee recently reported that female engineers represent a mere 14% of the total engineering workforce. Even more troubling is that this number appears to be dropping even further. According to the Society of Engineering Education, the percentage of 2009 undergraduate degrees from engineering schools earned by women was 17.8%, a 15-year low.

The Academy of Medicine, Engineering, and Science of Texas states that only 41% of Texas high school graduates are ready for college-level math (algebra), and only 24% are ready for college-level science (biology). The impact of this lack of college preparation will have a lasting effect on Texas communities, as the average STEM college graduate is estimated to earn up to \$1.2 million more in total salary over their lifetime than those who do not earn a college degree. Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) engages girls through its STEM programs and a wide variety of other essential afterschool activities that increase the girls' personal awareness and their ability to be effective learners in the classroom.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) reports a 10.2% longitudinal dropout rate for Austin ISD, where only 75.6% of 9th graders graduate on time. The TEA also states that 53.9% of Austin students are considered at-risk and 63.4% are economically disadvantaged. GSCTX takes a pre-emptive stance in combating issues like truancy and early dropout from high school. Research shows that girls who participate in Girl Scouts are less likely to become pregnant as teens, drop out of school, or begin using drugs. GSCTX's unique programs provide girls with a single-gender, supportive learning environment where they can explore their own interest while learning self-sufficiency, self-confidence, and the many roles that they have the opportunity to play in the world around them.

The key to Girl Scouts Youth Leadership Development is its outcomes-based approach. The fifteen outcomes used to track the success of the curriculum are based on the work of youth development experts from the Harvard Family Research Project/Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Innovation Center of Community and Youth Development, the University of Arizona, the University of Illinois, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Michigan. Research suggests that the youth development field is moving from the model of one individual leader to a model of shared leadership, which is why GSCTX has taken such a strong stance in increasing girls' responsibility for the health of their own relationships and communities.

7. Describe the demographics (e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, and income levels) and geographic characteristics of the community members your organization serves. (response required for non-profit agencies only)

Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) is inclusive of all girls, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or socio-economic standing. In the Austin area, GSCTX provides traditional Girl Scouts programming, as well as several community-based initiatives that allow girls who would otherwise not be able to participate benefit from the Girl Scouts curriculum. Girl Scouts come from families that represent a wide variety of socio-economic levels, and GSCTX sees strength in the bond that girls from various backgrounds are able to create through the Girl Scouts leadership model. Girl Scouts are K-12, and the following represents a breakdown of GSCTX's membership:

- 61% White/Caucasian
- 24% Hispanic
- 8% Black/African American
- 2% Asian
- 5% Other

8. Describe your organization's accessibility (e.g. accessible main entrance, within blocks of a public bus stop, etc.). (response required for non-profit agencies only)

Girl Scouts of Central Texas' (GSCTX) Austin Program Center is located about one mile from the nearest public bus stop, and the strength the Program Center's location is in its easy accessibility to I-35. Located conveniently on the I-35 frontage road, this exceptional location provides easy access for girls and volunteers from throughout the greater Austin area. I-35 serves as the main conduit for what is currently the US's largest county-to-county daily work commute, and GSCTX is a perfect stop for families traveling between Williamson and Travis counties on their daily trip to work. The section of I-35 that houses the GSCTX Program Center is also just three exits north of Route 183, which traverses north Austin East-to-West and connects the council to the Mopac Expressway that runs through the Missouri-Pacific Corridor to the West of the City.

9. If selected, how will your organization incorporate Google Fiber into the services it offers? (response required for all agencies)

Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) plans to incorporate Google Fiber into several of the services it offers. The EDGE Computer Lab is one the biggest community resources available through the council, and it provides STEM and ICT programming for girls year round. The inclusion of a gigabit connection will provide optimal services to girls using the lab, and it will allow girls to digitally connect to the resources and services of other organizations. The EDGE Lab serves an average of 3,000 girls annually, and it is the keystone of GSCTX's STEM program. Connecting the EDGE Lab to Google Fiber will have a direct impact on the girls served through EDGE Lab programs and activities throughout the year.

GSCTX was recently selected to pilot a *Be the Video Game Designer* program through Girl Scouts USA and Dell, and a gigabit connection will allow girls piloting the program to take full advantage of the design aspects of this innovative application. GSCTX also plans to implement new remote aspects of its Tech Girls program, which provides STEM programming to underserved girls at 24 Austin ISD schools. GSCTX will engage new evolunteers and ementors in its STEM curriculum, and a gigabit connection will allow the council to connect to a variety of resources in both Austin.

A Google Fiber connection will allow GSCTX to jumpstart a *Cyber Sisters* program that will engage Central Texas girls with girls in the Girl Scouts of NE Kansas & NW Missouri, which is headquartered in Kansas City. Though the Girl Scouts office in Kansas City is not in a current Fiberhood, girls from their council can use the Westport Fiber Space community connection area to interact with girls in GSCTX's EDGE Lab. Another possibility that has been discussed involves the engagement of individual Kansas City troops and service units that have a pre-existing Google Fiber connection in their home. With

Google Fiber, Girl Scouts from Austin and Kansas City will experience real-time gigabit voice and video utilizing Google Hangouts. Along with Google ementors, they can work together to brainstorm and design innovative gigabit Google applications.

10. The City of Austin requires an annual report explaining how selected organizations and the community they serve benefit from Google Fiber. If selected, how will your organization measure the impact Google Fiber has on those served by your organization? Describe evaluation methods, goals, and objectives. (response required for all agencies)

Pre- and post- surveys will be administered by program staff for all programs using the EDGE Lab and the Google Fiber connection. These surveys will track participants' attainment of ICT and STEM skills, and they will be used to guide future program adjustments and improvements. Qualitative data will also be collected from coordinators, mentors, and parents to ensure that the programs that use Google Fiber are effectively addressing the changing need of girls in the Austin community. GSCTX will also track usage numbers from EDGE Lab activities and STEM camps.

Community

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Briefly describe how Google Fiber will enhance public participation in your organization's service.

It's difficult to schedule inventions but GSCTX is great at organizing a movement, and the sheer size of the council provides the opportunity for GSCTX to use Google Fiber in a fashion that benefits both the girls of Central Texas and Google. One of GSCTX's key strengths is its breadth of service, providing 11,000 girls and 7,500 adult volunteers in the Austin area with high quality leadership programming. Google Fiber will allow Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) to provide enhanced digital programming to girls in the Austin area, and it will provide myriad opportunities for GSCTX to remotely partner with other Austin nonprofits. The gigabit connection will help with recruitment for EDGE Lab initiatives that promote STEM and ICT skills, and it will help girls seamlessly connect to online resources.

GSCTX plans to run an open house for a Google Fiber Speed Test in the EDGE Lab that will demonstrate Google Fiber capabilities in comparison to the council's current connection. This event will serve as an introduction to Google Fiber for the girls and adults involved in Girl Scouting as well as for the local public, and it will be a great opportunity for Google to promote its residential services and sign up new members. As part of the open house, GSCTX will present the technology that drives Google Fiber, and collaboration between GSCTX staff and Google volunteers will strengthen the success of the open house. With over 18,000 individuals served in the greater Austin area each year, this event will expose the Girl Scouts community to both new EDGE Lab initiatives, as well as the possibility of having Google Fiber installed in their own homes.

2. Briefly describe how your organization promotes digital inclusion.

Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) has been an advocate for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education for over thirteen years. GSCTX is host to numerous community workshops, annual STEM events, and a series of programs that explore real-world science and engineering issues. The council hosts two robotics teams in Austin: the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team for middle school girls and the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) for high school girls. The two teams, along with several other STEM events, comprise a comprehensive STEM program that takes girls from the early beginnings of elementary school technology camps through international FIRST robotics competitions.

GSCTX also promotes digital inclusion through its Tech Girls program. Tech Girls is an intensive, sustainable, and scalable afterschool STEM program for girls from low-income and low-resource backgrounds. Through weekly afterschool classes, Tech Girls exposes the girls to hands-on STEM and

ICT activities and projects that activate their interest in their STEM classes and encourages them to pursue a STEM career path through college. The girls also visit STEM professionals in the workplace and at school, and they are given the opportunity to shadow professionals in the STEM field.

The GSCTX EDGE Lab, which is located in the Austin Program Center provides a wealth of digital inclusion opportunities by supplying girls with the resources and guidance they need to explore critical STEM and ICT topics. The EDGE Lab is an integral tool for engaging girls in STEM and ICT curriculum that encourages them to excel in their STEM classes at school, follow a STEM career path through college, and become successful engineers and scientists. The EDGE Lab provides technology kits for girls and troops, and troops are able to sign out program kits and supplies throughout the year. The EDGE Lab is one the greatest resources that GSCTX has to offer the Austin community, and without its programming and events, hundreds of girls would be unable to participate in STEM programming each year.

3. Will bringing Google Fiber to your organization help the underserved? Please explain.

Though most girls participate in Girl Scouting through traditional volunteer-led troops, Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) is committed to the inclusion of girls and adults from various communities, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds. GSCTX's community-based programs extend the benefits of Girl Scouting to low-resource communities and girls from a multitude of diverse backgrounds who would otherwise not be afforded the opportunity to succeed. Nearly 2,000 girls from low socio-economic backgrounds currently participate in GSCTX community-based programming and participation numbers continue to grow. GSCTX serves these diverse communities with dropout prevention programs, professional counseling, and Science, Technology, Education, and Math (STEM) education. The majority of these community-based programs are located in Austin, and many of the programs visit the EDGE computer lab throughout the year.

Outside of the EDGE Lab, Google Fiber will enable GSCTX to form meaningful partnerships through the establishment of remote learning options for some of its pre-existing programs. With Google Fiber, GSCTX will be able to incorporate shared experiential learning opportunities into its Tech Girls program, which provides STEM education to underserved Austin ISD schools. In the past, this program has been coordinated by having a teacher in each of the twenty-six Tech Girls classrooms, but the addition of Google Fiber will allow GSCTX to connect with each of the Google Fiber-enabled schools that are selected through this Community Connections Program. A Google Fiber connection will provide great inclusiveness for the participants of the program, and it will allow GSCTX staff to interact with one or more classes simultaneously through Google Hangouts.

4. How much of your community will benefit from the Google Fiber connection?

All 32,000 girls and adults who participate in Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) programs and activities will benefit from the Google Fiber connection. Not only will GSCTX be better equipped to provide new digital delivery techniques for its programs, but the Google Fiber connection will enhance GSCTX's operational capacity by increasing the speed of its virtual private network. This network supports the organization's server, phones, and the CitrixXenApp which provides application virtualization and application delivery to staff members in the Austin office as well as to all GSCTX employees who work remotely from the other Program Centers. This increased efficiency will allow GSCTX to better serve the girls and adult volunteers throughout Central Texas.

5. Briefly describe how your organization will offer a new community service as a result of the Google Fiber connection.

A Google Fiber connection will allow Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) to incorporate new digital and remote learning aspects of many of its pre-existing technology programs for the underserved; it will provide better educational opportunities through the EDGE Computer Lab; and it will allow GSCTX to offer programming that was previously impossible with the Program Center's current internet connection. With the faster connection, GSCTX will be able to upload movies and webinars on a more

regular basis, providing more comprehensive service to girls throughout the Austin area, including those who have Google Fiber access in their own homes. GSCTX is also planning to use the gigabit connection to coordinate a virtual partnership program with the Girl Scouts of NE Kansas & NW Missouri, which is based in Kansas City and already has access to a Google Fiber connection. The Google Fiber connection here at GSCTX will provide endless collaborative opportunities for programs that connect the resources and girls of Austin with the resources and girls of Kansas City.

Innovation

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Please describe the potential innovative applications that could be developed with a gigabit connection.

Girl Scouts USA, the national organization based in New York, recently developed an application that teaches girls how to design video games. Aptly named Be the Video Game Designer, this application is the second in a series of applications that began with a Be the Director last year. Of over 112 Girl Scouts councils nationwide, Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) was chosen to pilot the program in conjunction with a grant that was initiated by Dell. The official launch of the new Be the Video Game Designer is set for September 18th, but GSCTX has already experienced technical difficulties in piloting the program, as the Austin Program Center's current internet connection does not have the bandwidth to seamlessly display the application on multiple computers simultaneously. Though girls have already begun testing the program, the experience thus far has been choppy and limited due to the insufficient internet connection.

GSCTX's vision is to engage the council's girl-led robotics teams, troops, and STEM special-interest groups to design innovative applications that utilize gigabit bandwidth, educating themselves as well as their families and their communities. With the help of technology partners, volunteers and ementors, GSCTX's older girls could design, create, and launch gigabit applications as their Gold Award projects (the highest award in Girl Scouting) enabled by Google Fiber. Each Gold Award project averages 80 hours of work and culminates in a Take Action Project that showcases their efforts and has a direct impact on their community. Integrating ICT skills and Google Fiber technology into this award program will create greater good in communities throughout greater Austin, and it will embolden girls to use Google Fiber to create social good.

2. Does your organization have or foresee high bandwidth applications?

When many families first connected their homes to electricity in the early twentieth century, they only wanted light bulbs installed, because light was the only "application" that they knew for electricity. They had little-to-no awareness of how electricity and electrical "applications" would ultimately change every aspect of our homes, businesses, and lives. Similarly, it is difficult to gauge the spectrum of applications that a Google Fiber connection will spawn. The possibilities are limitless, and a gigabit connection will allow girls and community members to create immersive experiences without the constraints of compressing video files, buffering real-time interactions, or having critical data cached on their computers and at various points along the network.

By supplying GSCTX with a gigabit connection, Google is laying the groundwork for limitless ICT innovation that will change the way in which the girls of Central Texas communicate and exchange information. Though applications that utilize the full breadth of these speeds are still on the horizon, the creation of seamless Massive Multiplayer Online (MMO) interaction, bulk uploading, and flawless connectivity are already underway. GSCTX has the resources and the community connections to ensure that the council stays on the forefront of this innovation. Volunteers and partnerships with Dell, IBM, Freescale Semiconductor, Samsung, 3M, and many more supply the council with a wealth of resources and a direct line to the forces that drive the world's technological innovation.

With Google's help, GSCTX can give girls what they need to become the next digital trendsetters,

modernizers, and Girl Scouts gigabit gurus. When it comes to innovation, speed matters, and GSCTX has the resources, partnerships, and curriculum to maximize a gigabit connection through the creation of MMO applications that increase communication between Austin area girls and community partners. The girls of Central Texas have what takes to create the high bandwidth applications that will change the way we learn, do business, and interact with the world around us. A gigabit connection will allow these girls to move beyond the twentieth century light bulbs of our current applications and begin to design the applications that we've yet to dream will become everyday realities in our lives.

3. Briefly describe how your organization is interested in advancing your technology.

As an innovator in the Austin nonprofit network, Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) is continually looking for new ways to advance the council's technology and its ability to teach innovative technology-based programming. GSCTX is currently making new enhancements to the EDGE Computer Lab that will provide a wide range of STEM learning opportunities, and the council recently made major updates to the server that is used across the forty-six counties that are covered by the council. Google Fiber interests the council because of its ability to provide a reliable connection at increased speeds. Providing Google Fiber to GSCTX will increase the speed and capacity of Citrix remote users, which will increase the overall efficiency and organizational capacity of the council, and it will increase GSCTX's ability to provide direct service programming to girls in the Austin community. The EDGE Lab is one the greatest resources that GSCTX has to offer the Austin community, and without its programming and events, thousands of girls would be unable to participate in STEM programming each year. The installation of a Google Fiber connection will have a lasting effect on the EDGE Lab's ability to offer relevant and engaging STEM programming for years to come. An investment in the EDGE Lab is a direct investment in the capacity of girls to succeed in their STEM classes and continue on a STEM career path through college.

4. Does your organization have the capacity and resources to advance your technologies? Please explain.

Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) relies heavily on the expertise of its volunteers. Volunteers are responsible for 99% of all Girl Scouts' activities nationwide. Over 13,000 adults volunteer with GSCTX council-wide, and about 7,500 adults volunteer with GSCTX in the Austin area alone. Many of the volunteers that work with GSCTX programs are professionals in the STEM field at companies like Freescale Semiconductor, IBM, Dell, 3M, Samsung, and many more. These volunteers serve as incredible resources of information, but they also serve as gateways to funding for technology advancements and tech-based programs. Last year, GSCTX received major support from Microsoft, IBM, and the Lola Wright Foundation to help advance the councils technologies. Though the council will need to make some minor adjustments to accommodate for the increased gigabit connection, GSCTX has the resources and community connections to ensure that all necessary adjustments are made prior to the installation of Google Fiber.

Practical Pragmatic

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Will the connection help your organization financially? How?

By selecting Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) for the Community Connections Program, Google and the City of Austin will be making a major financial impact on the everyday affairs of the council, as well as the council's ability to support the community in which it serves. The amount of time and energy that will be saved by making these crucial upgrades to the speed of the server and virtual private network is tremendous. This connection will make Girl Scouts a more efficient community partner, and it will enable the council to provide better services to the community at a lower cost.

2. Will this be the organization's primary or secondary connection?

The Google Fiber connection will serve as the primary connection for the Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX) Austin Program Center. The council will, however, run a co-existing backup line with its current provider. This secondary line will serve as an emergency line and it will also play an integral role in the Google Fiber Open House community event that will be held at the council, and will feature speed trials with Google Fiber running against the council's current connection.

3. Does your organization have (or will it have) equipment necessary to connect?

After careful examination of the Girl Scouts of Central Texas' (GSCTX) network infrastructure, only minor adjustments will be needed in order to accommodate to a gigabit connection. The only new equipment needed in order to upgrade is the purchase of four 2920-48G Switches – 44 ports – Manageable – 44 x RJ-45 – 7 x Expansion Slots - 10/100/1000BASE-T Rack-Mountable. The version of this element is subject to change depending on the exact specifications of each quote; however, GSCTX is currently collecting bids for this equipment to ensure that it is in place before the Google Fiber installation begins. GSCTX will also need the Google Fiber Jack ONT that is included as part of this program.

4. Does your organization currently have access to a high bandwidth connection?

The Girl Scouts of Central Texas' (GSCTX) current ISP is with Windstream (Paetec), and recent speed test showed that the council had 3.8 Mbps down and 3.25 Mbps up. These speeds are insufficient in supporting GSCTX programming, and they hinder the staff's ability to provide the highest quality of service to girls in the greater Austin area.

Applicant's Statement

I certify that answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information given in my application will result in disqualification. I understand and agree that I am required to abide by City of Austin ordinances, policies and rules.

I understand if selected to receive a Google Fiber connection that the organization I represent may be required to:

submit an annual report to the TARA Office explaining how the organization has benefited from the free service.

Signature

Title

Please submit this form to TARA by 4:45 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2013.

Email: digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov

Address: City of Austin – TARA - Municipal Building 124 W. 8th Street, Suite 210 Austin, Texas 78701

9/13/13